Rehabilitation and conservation of the Hindu temples in Pakistan

1959. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently taken any step to help the Government of Pakistan in rehabilitation and conservation of the Hindu temples at Katasraj and other places in that country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the financial assistance, architectural expertise and other help proposed to be given to Pakistan for the purpose; and

(c) whether the Government of Pakistan has given any indication as to when the work on the proposed projects at various places there would start and the time likely to be taken for their completion?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) In response to a request from the Government of Pakistan for technical assistance, the Government has deputed an officer from the Archaeological Survey of India to visit and formulate a proposal for the restoration of the Katasraj Temples.

(b) and (c) Based on the visit, the Archaeological Survey of India has prepared a report for conservation and development of Katasraj Temples and this report has been forwarded to the Government of Pakistan through the Ministry of External Affairs. The report envisages the development and restoration of the Katasraj complex in three phases. The report envisages that the execution and funding of the work would be by the Government of Pakistan. The response of the Government of Pakistan on the report is awaited.

Heritage map

1960. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning a heritage map of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities which entails locational analysis of the heritage centres; and

(d) the details of the both protected and unprotected monuments that are proposed to be covered in Orissa under the above project?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) There is no proposal at present with the ASI to prepare a heritage map of the country.

(c) The National Mission when launched would prepare a National Register of Monuments and Antiquities with all locational details. Besides, the Mission also seeks to build data banks at regional levels, take up programmes for increasing awareness and planned conservation of selected monuments.

(d) All protected and unprotected monuments are proposed to be covered under the National Mission for the purpose of documentation. It is envisaged that the documentation would be from secondary sources.

Restoration of temples and heritage sites

1961. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the ASI that Restoration of Muzarai controlled temples and heritage sites in Karnataka has not been commenced due to the non-availability of expected funds;

(b) the number of such sites identified across the State under this project and the estimated cost, thereof;

(c) the reasons for delay in releasing the funds; and

(d) whether it has been decided to go ahead with the project in collaboration with leading NGO, Daharmastala, Dharmasamsthana Pratishtana?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Government of Karnataka has informed that the State Department of Archaeology is carrying out conservation and restoration of monuments including the protected temples under the control of Muzarai department subject to availability of budgetary allocation. The Archaeology department has evolved a public-private partnership scheme since 2002-03 for conservation and restoration of temples in the State including Muzarai controlled temples.

(b) 13 temples under the control of Muzarai department have been identified under this project. The department of State archaeology would be releasing Rs. 40 lakhs during 2005-2006 under this programe.

(c) As informed by the State Government there is no delay in releasing the funds.